

Neuropathy; symptoms and causes

There are various causes of [Peripheral Neuropathy](#) including several drugs, diabetes, shingles, kidney failure, and vitamin deficiency. Many of these causes can be successfully treated or prevented and the treatment for the disease is dependent on its cause.

It is a disorder of the nerves apart from the brain and spinal cord, and patients experience symptoms like tingling, numbness, weakness, or burning pain in the affected area. The symptoms often times involve the hands and feet and is often described as a “glove and stocking” distribution of symptoms.

The condition can involve various nerve types that include sensory, motor and autonomic nerves and can be categorized by the size of the nerve fibers involved. Other symptoms of neuropathy include various types of pain and loss of balance, which depends solely on the type of nerve affected or involved in the condition. As the autonomic nerves control bodily functions that we do not consciously think of, such as heart rate, digestion, and emptying of the bowel and bladder, autonomic neuropathy manifests with symptoms affecting the loss of control of these functions. The autonomic symptoms may include problems with blood pressure, voiding, passage of stools like diarrhea and constipation, heart rate or sweating.

Cranial neuropathy is similar to peripheral neuropathy, except that the cranial nerves are involved. One of the more common causes of cranial neuropathy is loss of blood flow from the optic artery to the optic nerve, causing ischemic optic neuropathy. There are some common causes of this rare disorder.

[Diabetic peripheral neuropathy](#) is usually caused by a history of diabetes in a patient. Specific nerves can be involved in causing neuropathy. When a specific nerve is involved, the symptoms are limited to the distribution of that nerve. The most commonly involved peripheral nerve is the median nerve at the wrist in carpal tunnel syndrome. Basically any peripheral nerve can become entrapped and cause the signs and symptoms of neuropathy.

The ulnar nerve is commonly entrapped at the elbow. The peroneal nerve is exposed at the outer part of the knee. The pudendal nerve can cause pain in the perineum and is relieved by sitting on a toilet seat or an inflatable donut. Entrapment of the lateral femoral cutaneous nerve at the waist causes numbness at the outer part of the thigh.

<http://peripheralneuropathy.org>